

## **Bishop J. W. Smith, D.D.**

**A. M. E. Zion Church**

**Residence: Washington, D.C.**

BISHOP SMITH presides over the conferences of Philadelphia and Baltimore, Virginia, South Florida, Bahama Islands, and Cuba. He was born a slave, of slave parents, in Fayetteville, N. C., January 27, 1862. He attended the public graded schools and the State Normal School.

Converted in 1880, he joined the Central North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1881 and was ordained elder in 1882. He served a number of important churches, and in 1896 was elected editor of *The Star of Zion*, the official organ of the church. He was re-elected in 1900, and in 1904 was elected bishop.

He is known in his denomination as "the militant writer." While pastor in Carlisle, Pa., in 1896, he led a movement that was successful in having all the white teachers removed from the colored schools of the city and colored teachers appointed in their places. The white public schools of the city would not have colored teachers, and Pastor Smith thought colored teachers ought to be given to the colored schools.

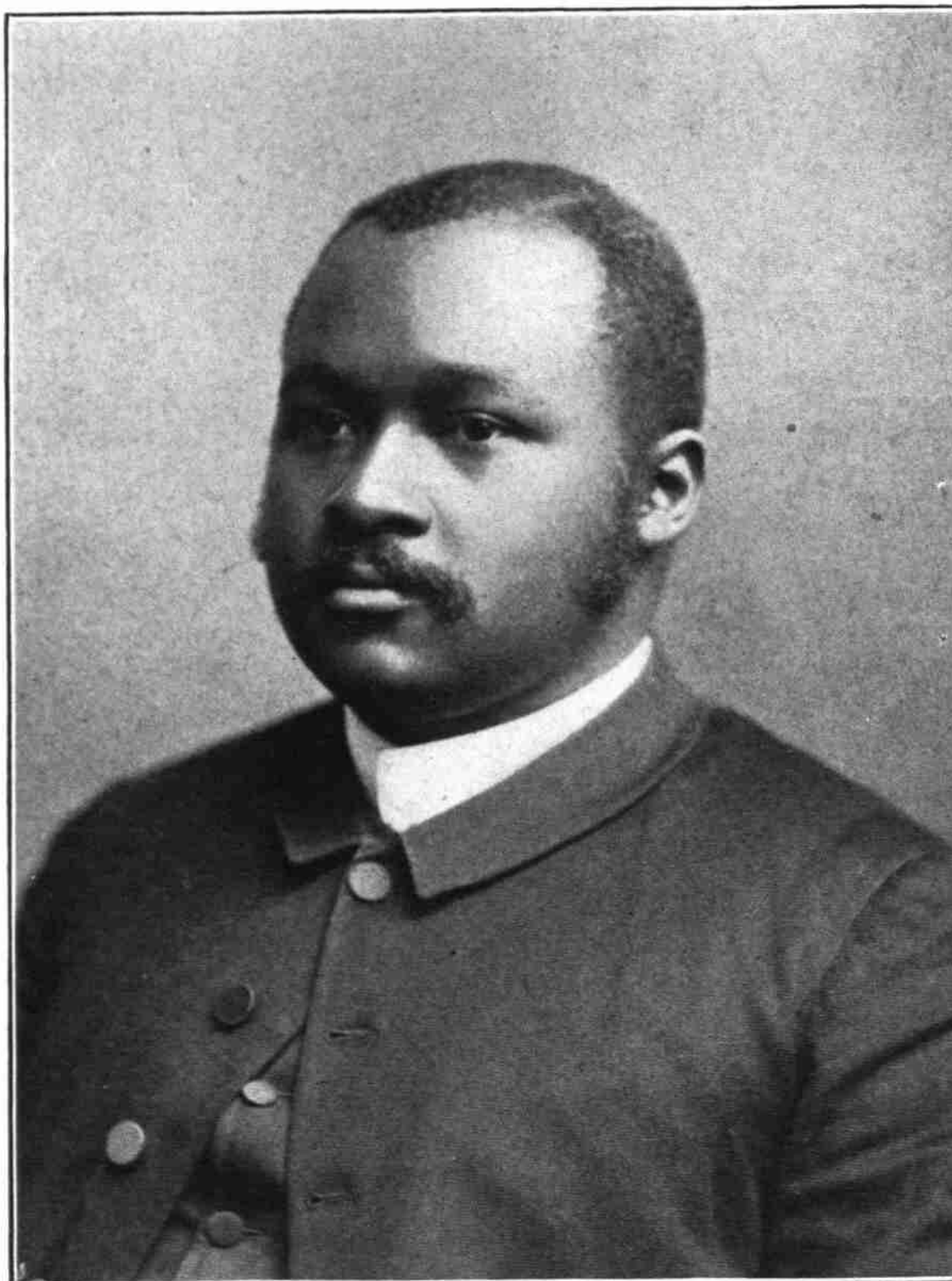
Bishop Smith is described as "a scriptural, practical, flowery, humorous, fearless preacher," and "a useful member of the household of faith." The bishop has been very successful as a builder of churches and parsonages both during his pastorate and since he assumed episcopal relations.

## **Greatest Needs of the Negro Race**

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SINCE the basal needs of the human race are the same, and both enemies and friends acknowledge that the Negro has capacity for knowledge and virtue, the same fundamental forces that have developed the great Anglo-Saxon race will also develop him.

Morally: Under the influence of their home, school, and church training since their freedom, their progress morally has been as rapid and genuine as any other race that came out of bondage. They feel that a trained body and mind are nothing without a high moral character; therefore, among the greatest needs now to their further development, morally, is a more attractive home of literature and music to keep their children off the streets at night, more refined association, and a closer individual and parental attention to character training.



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Religiously: Statistics show that nearly two thirds of the Negroes belong to the church. To further develop, religiously, they need an educated ministry, better church buildings in many places, and a great Christian devotion and self-sacrifice to build up the cause of Christ on earth. The study of the Bible in Sunday-school instruction will be a great help to knowledge. Our souls must have roots in God, whose kingdom is within us.

Intellectually: The thousands of black boys and girls of this country educated in Negro schools by Negro teachers, together with a host matriculating at white colleges in this and foreign lands, show conclusively the intellectual progress of the Negroes. To further develop, intellectually, the faculty of our schools and colleges must be of superior scholarship, each professor being a specialist in the books he teaches, and the students must give that close attention to study which will "open worlds of use and delight which are infinite and which each individual must redis-

cover for himself." Then they will see God in nature, history, science, geography, as well as in the Bible, hymns, and catechism.

Industrially: That the industrial schools are a blessing to the Negro youth, enabling them to enter as skilled workmen the industrial field and successfully compete with their white fellow-workmen for wealth, progress, and independence, is a fact that cannot be overturned. The industrial school is the student's workshop to give him a thorough, practical business training demanded now by business men everywhere, so that when he graduates for a paying position or trade he may be qualified to enter at once upon the duties of life. There are thousands of Negro boys and girls with what is known as a "good liberal education," and hundreds with college education, versed in Latin and Greek, yet unable to command a position that will pay them a living salary. "Book learning" is splendid as far as it goes, but if it will not give us a livelihood, it is no good to us. To develop further, the Afro-American needs "more practice and less theory," and to "learn by doing."

With an educated mind, a high moral character, a cleansed heart truly consecrated to God, trained and skilled hands, the Negro will rise triumphantly and reach the goal of his ambition.